THE ETERNALS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

WAR IN THE CITY OF TOADS!

KRONA AND THENA-- DEVIANT AND ETERNALS-- SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE REJECTS!!

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Stan Lee Presents: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY * INKED & LETTERED BY MIKE ROYER * COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN * APPRECIATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

SPACE GODS! YOU'LL SEE THEM, IF YOU *KEEP READING* THIS MAGAZINE!!

ETERNALS! YOU'LL SEE *THEM* IN EVERY ISSUE!

DEVIANTS! READ ON, AND LEARN *MORE* ABOUT THEM!! THEY WERE HERE *BEFORE* THE WHEEL! THEY WERE HERE *BEFORE* THE FLOOD! THEY ARE WITH US, EVEN AS WE AMUSE OURSELVES WITH OLD HORROR MOVIES! WELL... *COME AND SEE AN OLDER HORROR!* COME AND SEE--

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IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE PRICE OF LIFE IS HIGH!!

ZOK!

POK!

IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE FIGHT FOR LIFE IS A DAILY ROUTINE!

UGHH-H!

WHAM!

IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE MASK OF CRUELTY IS MORE VALUED THAN THE LIVING HEART!!

CEASE FIGHTING! COME FORTH-- REJECT!!

THIS ONE STILL LIVES--!

DROP HIM!

YOU HEARD THE ORDER!

WOE TO HIM WHO LIVES IN THIS CITY! FOR HERE, PEACE IS A SHADOW -- AND SHAME, THE DAILY BREAD.

DO AS YOU'RE TOLD --OR TASTE THE ELECTRIC WHIP!

ZZZPPP!

MOVE!

KRAK!

WHERE IS THE DREAM -- THE BRIGHT STAR OF HOPE? HERE IT LIES STILLBORN--ENTOMBED FOREVER--DEAD BEFORE ITS TIME.

THE REJECT IS DEFIANT, GREAT TODE!! SHOW HIM NO MERCY !!

SILENCE! THE DECISION IS MINE TO MAKE!

SO SHALL IT BE FOR ALL ETERNITY, MOST EXALTED OF DEVIANTS!!

CAN OMEGA THE UNKNOWN TRIUMPH AGAINST "A TURN OF THE WRENCH"?

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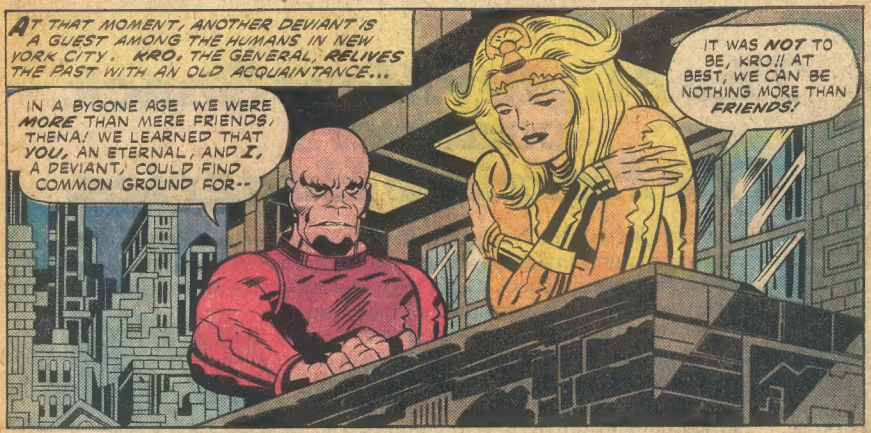
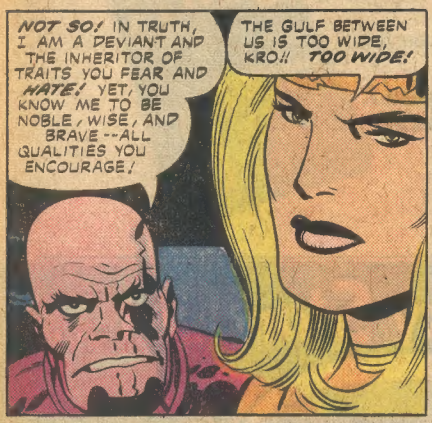
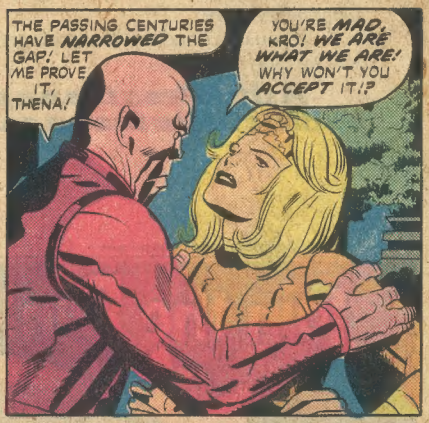
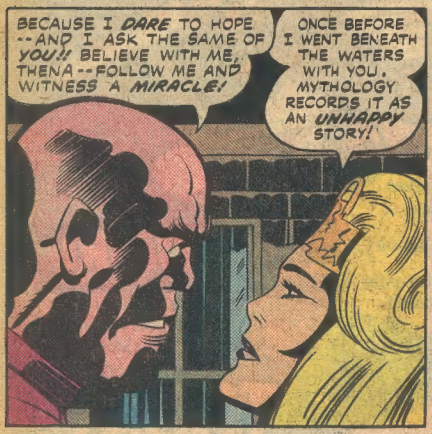
WELCOME A NEW INVADER— SPITFIRE! WILL HER FIRST MISSION ALSO BE HER LAST?









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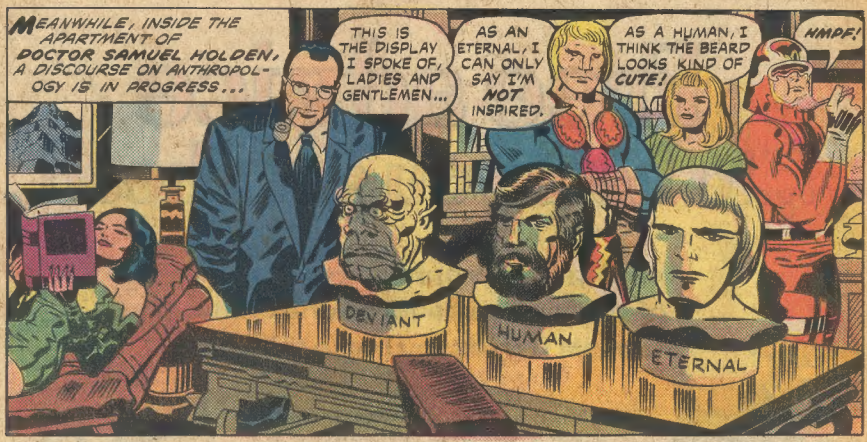
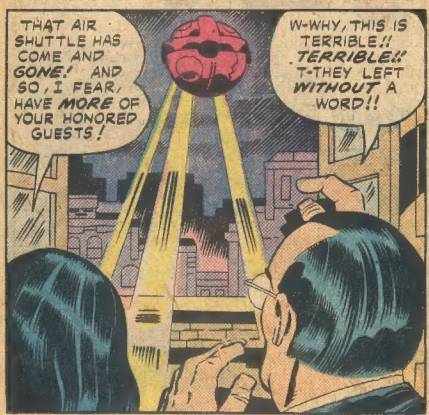
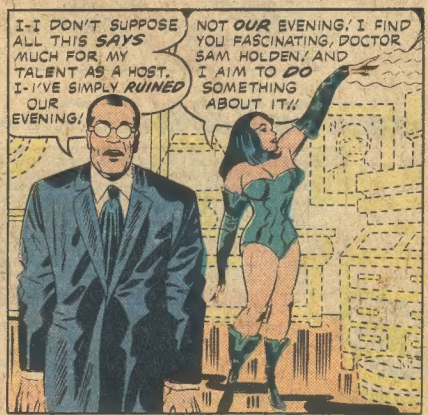


BEAST MAN VERSUS IRON MAN IN WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #42!





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SOON AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, KRO AND THENA ARE TAKEN TO AN UNDERSEA WAR-CRAFT WHICH SLIPS UNNOTICED INTO THE DEEPS AT GREAT SPEED...

FOR ALL THEIR PROGRESS, THENA, THE HUMANS ARE NO MATCH FOR DEVIANTS IN THIS ELEMENT.

THE CENTURIES HAVE MADE THIS YOUR HOME! THE DEVIANTS HAVE BEEN WELL HIDDEN, KRO.

MILES OF TRAVEL REVEAL THE FIRST TRACES OF THE DEVIANTS' LOST GRANDEUR: A GIANT CARVED FACE, HALF-BURIED IN THE OCEAN FLOOR, PEERS WITH SIGHTLESS EYES THAT DATE FROM A TIME BEFORE THE GREAT FLOOD.

THE RUINS BECOME MORE PLENTIFUL. THEY'RE LIKE SCATTERED BONES, LEADING TO THE SKELETON OF SOME TITANIC ANIMAL.

THE PAST STILL LIVES HERE, THENA! LOOK UPON THE POWER OF A WORLD ONCE SHAKEN AND CRUSHED BY A MIGHTY FORCE!!

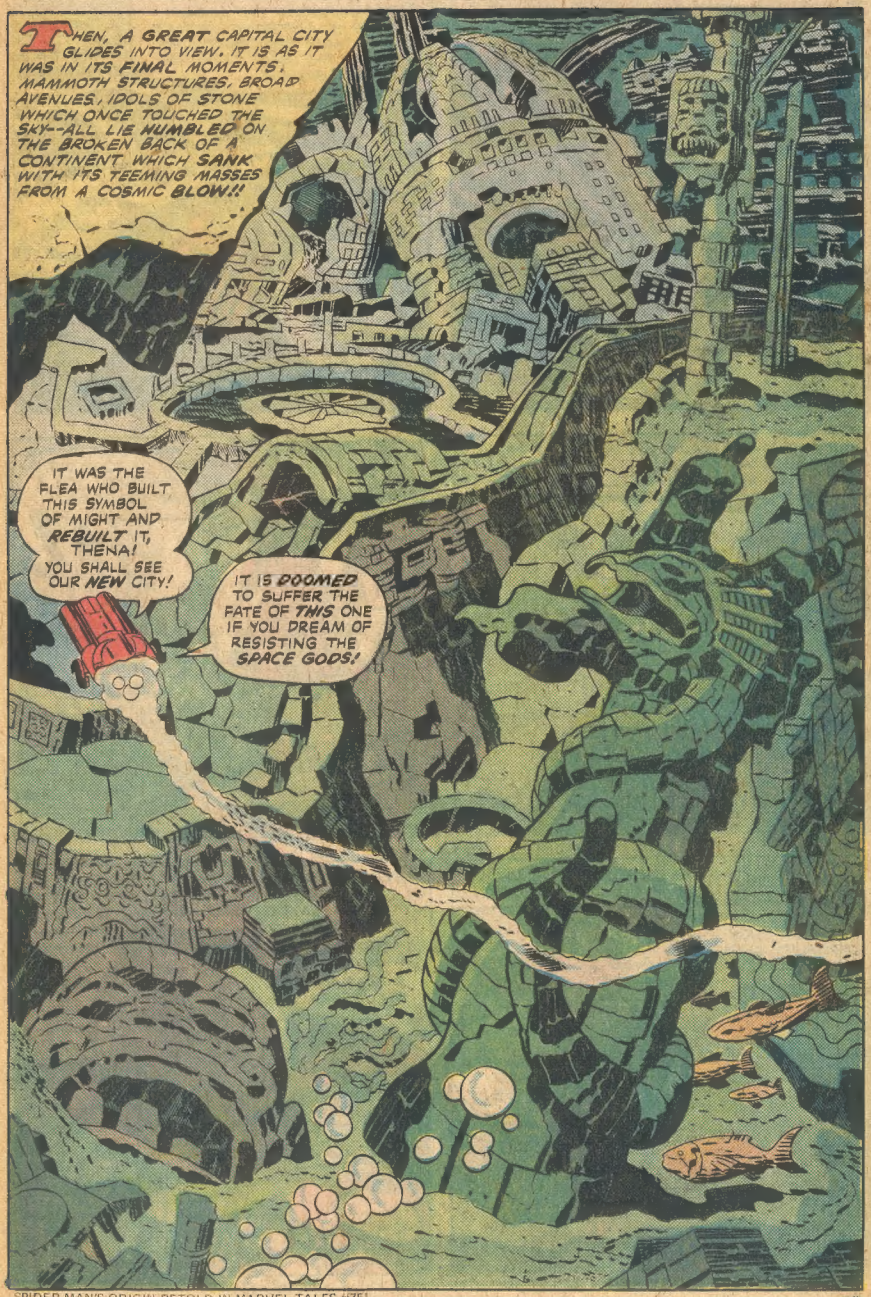
YOU ETERNALS KEPT TO YOUR MOUNTAINTOPS WHILE WE DEVIANTS STOOD AND FOUGHT THE SECOND HOST OF THE SPACE GODS!!

THAT'S WHY WE ARE STILL ON OUR MOUNTAINTOPS, NOW THAT THE FOURTH HOST HAS ARRIVED...

AT THIS MOMENT, THE DEVIANT CRAFT ENTERS A FORMIDABLE BARRIER, ERECTED AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK...

THEY'LL FIND US READY THIS TIME! OUR NEW WEAPON-SYSTEMS ARE INVINCIBLE!!

HAH! IS IT NOT ALWAYS THE FLEA WHO MOCKS THE ELEPHANT!


THEN, A GREAT CAPITAL CITY GLIDES INTO VIEW. IT IS AS IT WAS IN ITS FINAL MOMENTS. MAMMOTH STRUCTURES, BROAD AVENUES, IDOLS OF STONE WHICH ONCE TOUCHED THE SKY--ALL LIE HUMBLED ON THE BROKEN BACK OF A CONTINENT WHICH SANK WITH ITS TEEMING MASSES FROM A COSMIC BLOW!!
IT WAS THE FLEA WHO BUILT THIS SYMBOL OF MIGHT AND REBUILT IT, THENA! YOU SHALL SEE OUR NEW CITY!
IT IS DOOMED TO SUFFER THE FATE OF THIS ONE IF YOU DREAM OF RESISTING THE SPACE GODS!

THE DEVIANT CRAFT CONTINUES ON TOWARD A MONSTER SEA-WALL, WHERE GIANT LOCKS OPEN TO RECEIVE IT...

WE DREAM OF THAT AND MORE, THENA-- THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE!

IT IS MADNESS --BUT LEAD ON, KRO!

AFTER ENTERING THE LOCKS, THERE IS A STRONG UPWARD PULL -- THEN THE CRAFT SURFACES IN THE MAIN CANAL OF THE NEW LEMURIA ...

WE HAVE ARRIVED! DOCK HER AT THE ROYAL PIER!

KRO AND THENA ARE GIVEN A CEREMONIAL GREETING AS THEY WALK ASHORE...

HAIL, KRO! HAIL, DAUGHTER OF ZURAS!

LEMURIA OPENS WIDE ITS DOORS TO AN HONORED GUEST!!

WE SEEM TO BE AN ILL-KEPT SECRET, KRO!

I MADE CERTAIN THEY KNEW OF YOUR VISIT-- AND AFFORDED YOU A PROPER WELCOME!

THE ARRIVALS PROCEED THROUGH A FLANKING HONOR GUARD TOWARD THE CITY'S CENTER...

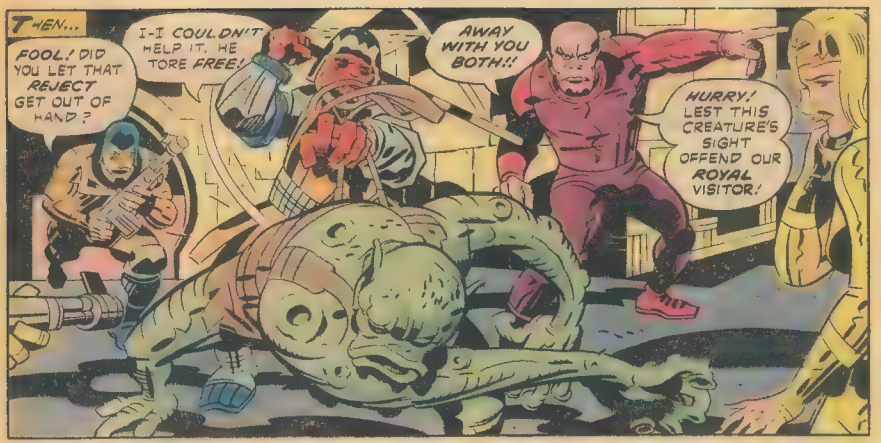
NO ETERNAL EVER FOUND SUCH HOSPITALITY AMONG THE DEVIANTS!

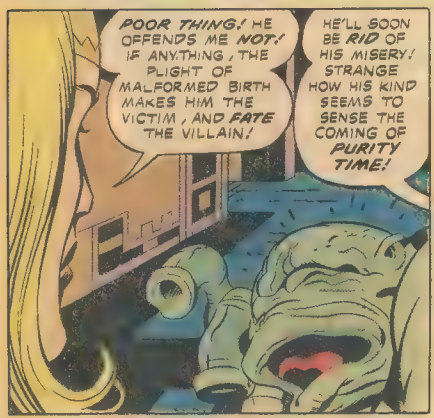
COME, THERE IS MORE TO SEE!

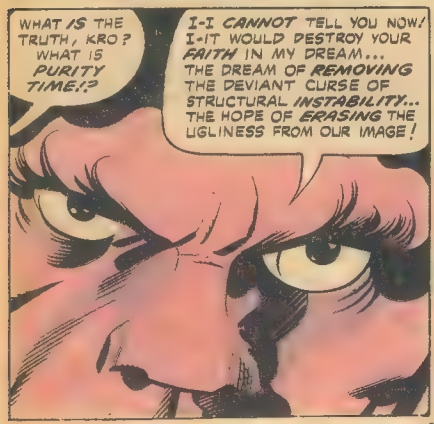
THERE IS A SUDDEN BLUR OF MOVEMENT! A CLAMMY, MISSHAPEN ARM THRUSTS ITSELF AT THENA AND GRASPS HER WITH UNCANNY STRENGTH...

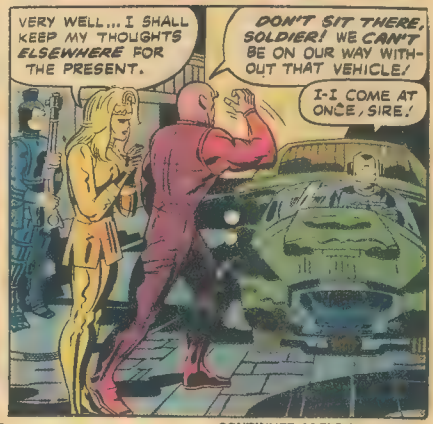
B-B-BRUH-BURUBARR-

BY THE FIRE BOLTS OF ZURAS! WHA--!!?









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BUT BEFORE THE VEHICLE CAN MOVE, IT IS BLOCKED BY A MILLING HORDE OF DEVIANTS WHICH SUDDENLY POURS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY...

HERE THEY COME! HERE COME THE DEATH WAGONS!

THEY'VE COLLECTED EVERY MISBEGOTTEN MONSTER AMONG US!

WHA--?

BLAST! I'M UNDONE!

DON'T PUSH! I WANT TO SEE THEM!!

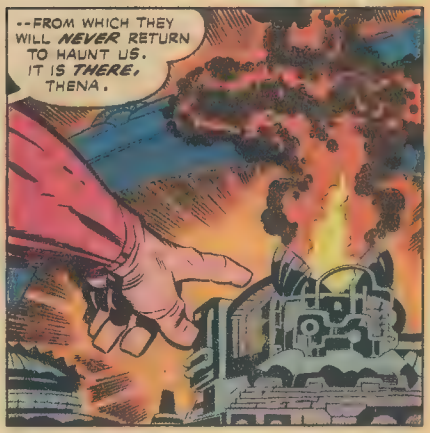
MAKE WAY! MAKE WAY!!

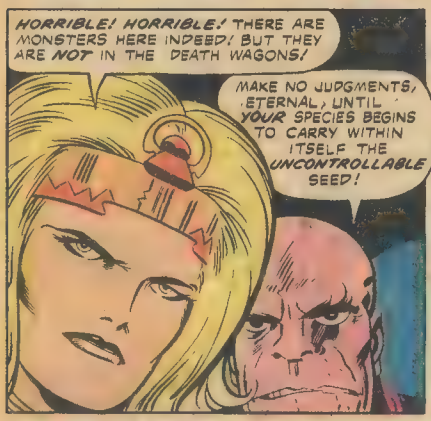
THE DEATH WAGONS ROLL IN SLOW PROCESSION THROUGH THE SQUARE. THEIR CARGOES OF HORROR ARE TO BE SEEN IN FULL VIEW OF THE CURIOUS ONLOOKERS...

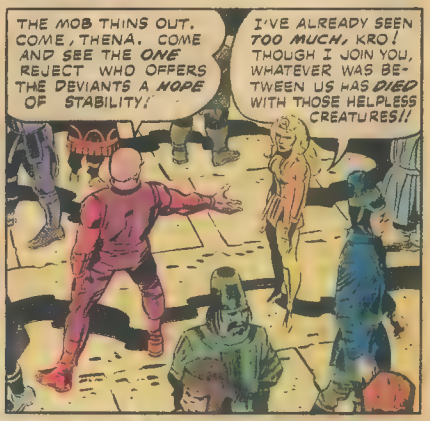
UGH! LOOK AT THEM! SEE THE CURSED THINGS!

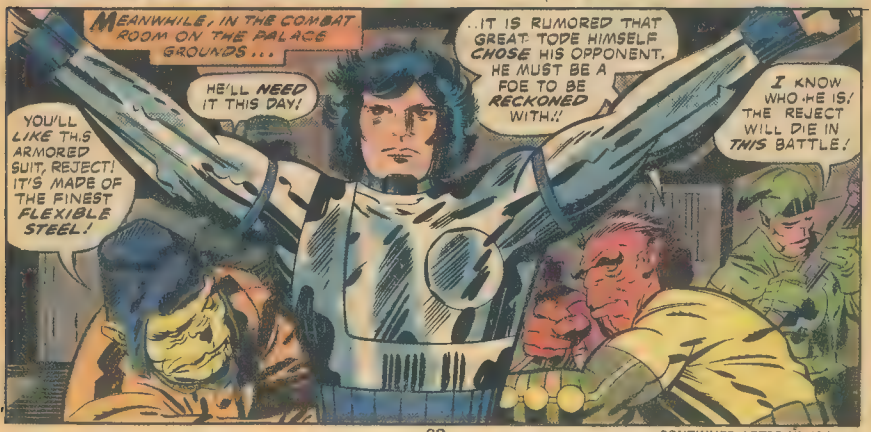
CLEANSE US OF THEM! LEAVE US PURE AND CLEAN!

THERE IS NO HIDING FROM WHAT IS VISIBLE IN THE DEATH WAGONS.. EACH GROTESQUE FORM IS A LIVING REMINDER OF THE THREAT WITHIN EVERY DEVIANT'S BODY-- UNSTABLE ATOMS, RUNNING WILD IN FRIGHTENING PATTERNS, PRODUCING FRIGHTENING OFF-SPRING! THE SOLUTION IS PURITY TIME--AN INFAMOUS RITUAL WHICH NEVER ENDS!









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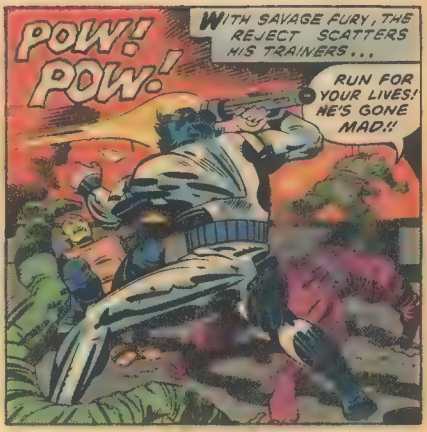
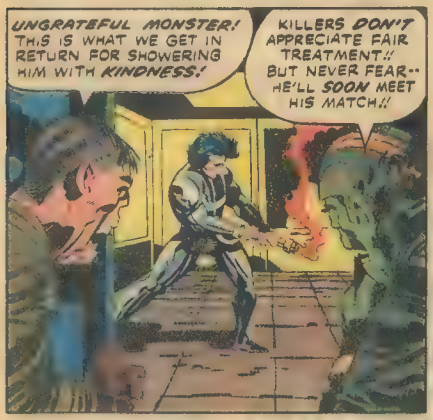
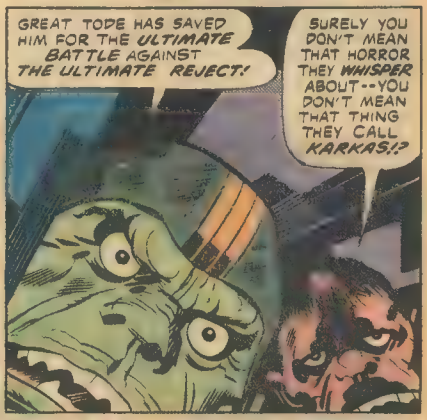
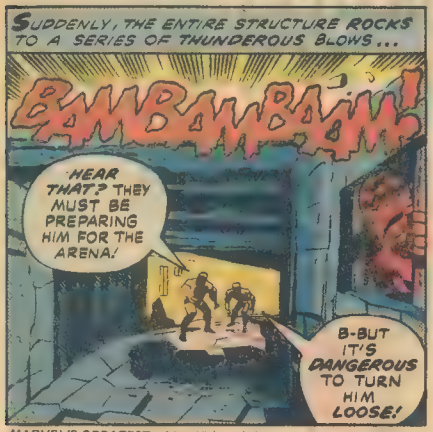
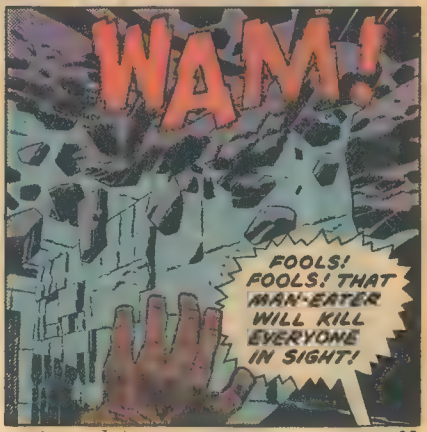
THE MERE MENTION OF DEFEAT DRIVES THE REJECT INTO A FRENZY...
STOP HIM!!
LOOK OUT! THE DOG'S SNATCHED A WEAPON!!
GET MORE HELP!! HE'LL KILL US, I TELL YOU!

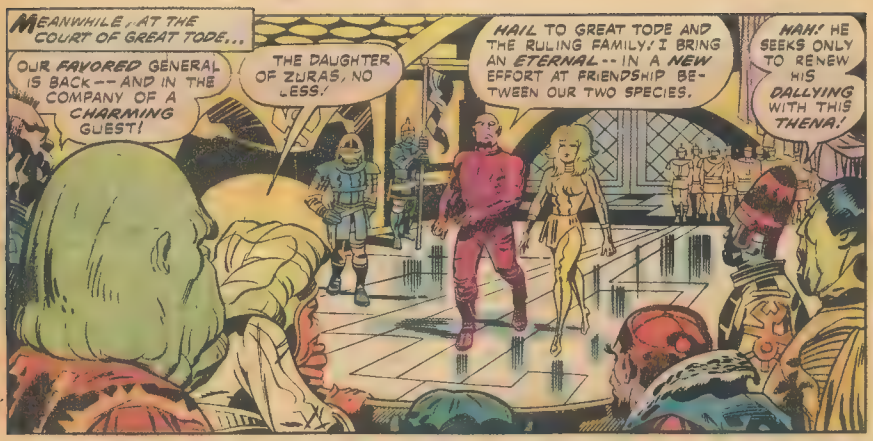

POW! POW!
WITH SAVAGE FURY, THE REJECT SCATTERS HIS TRAINERS...
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! HE'S GONE MAD!!

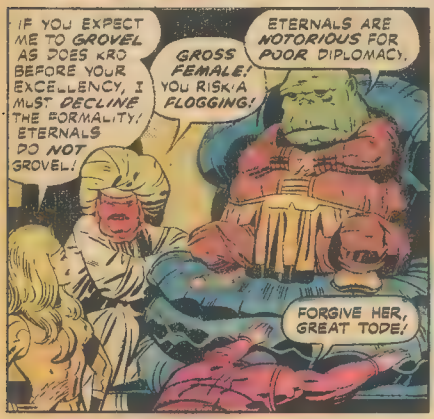

UNGRATEFUL MONSTER! THIS IS WHAT WE GET IN RETURN FOR SHOWERING HIM WITH KINDNESS!
KILLERS DON'T APPRECIATE FAIR TREATMENT!! BUT NEVER FEAR-- HE'LL SOON MEET HIS MATCH!!

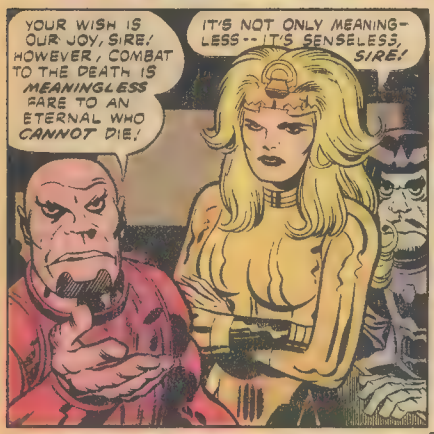

GREAT TODE HAS SAVED HIM FOR THE ULTIMATE BATTLE AGAINST THE ULTIMATE REJECT!
SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THAT HORROR THEY WHISPER ABOUT--YOU DON'T MEAN THAT THING THEY CALL KARKAS!!?


SUDDENLY, THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE ROCKS TO A SERIES OF THUNDEROUS BLOWS...
BAM BAM BAM!
HEAR THAT? THEY MUST BE PREPARING HIM FOR THE ARENA!
B-BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO TURN HIM LOOSE!


WAM!
FOOLS! FOOLS! THAT MAN-EATER WILL KILL EVERYONE IN SIGHT!







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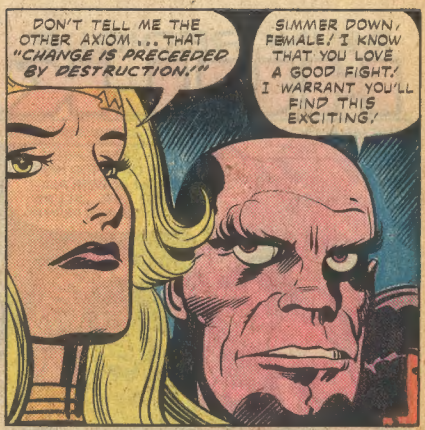
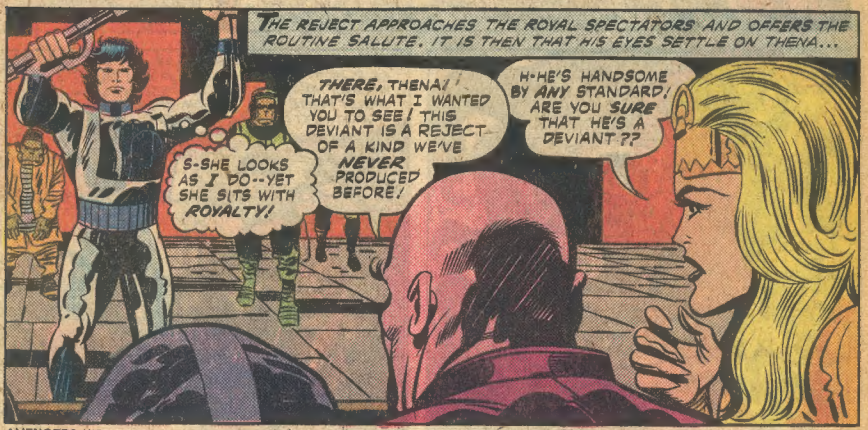
HAIL TO THE HEROES. SIT DOWN, KRO. I'LL MUDDLE THROUGH THIS MESS WITHOUT GAGGING.
PATIENCE, THENA. WE SEEK TO CHANGE A MILLENIUM--


DON'T TELL ME THE OTHER AXIOM ... THAT "CHANGE IS PRECEEDED BY DESTRUCTION."
SIMMER DOWN, FEMALE! I KNOW THAT YOU LOVE A GOOD FIGHT! I WARRANT YOU'LL FIND THIS EXCITING!

A HUSH FALLS OVER GREAT TODE'S COURT AS AN OVERSEER'S VOICE BOOMS LOUDLY FROM A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM...
ATTENTION, PLEASE! THE TIME HAS COME TO HONOR GREAT TODE AND HIS ROYAL FAMILY WITH THE FINEST COMBAT THIS KINGDOM CAN PROVIDE!

BRING FORTH THE REJECT! LET HIM STAND BEFORE HIS BETTERS AND AWAIT THEIR APPROVAL.
GET ON WITH IT! DROP THE FORMALITIES AND BRING IN THE OTHER!


THE REJECT APPROACHES THE ROYAL SPECTATORS AND OFFERS THE ROUTINE SALUTE. IT IS THEN THAT HIS EYES SETTLE ON THENA...
S-SHE LOOKS AS I DO--YET SHE SITS WITH ROYALTY!
THERE, THENA! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE! THIS DEVIANT IS A REJECT OF A KIND WE'VE NEVER PRODUCED BEFORE!
H-HE'S HANDSOME BY ANY STANDARD! ARE YOU SURE THAT HE'S A DEVIANT ??

BEFORE KRO CAN ANSWER, SOMETHING SMASHES ITS WAY INTO THE ARENA!! IT IS HUGE! IT IS MONSTROUS!! IT IS

KARKAS!!!

RROARR!

HOLD HIM IN CHECK!

BACK! BACK.. YOU MAD MUTATE!!

BRING UP MORE CONTROL WEAPONS!

ALTHOUGH ALL THE ROYAL SPECTATORS ARE PROTECTED BY A HIDDEN ELECTRIC BARRIER, THEY ARE HIGHLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MASSIVE MUTATE!! ONLY THENA RISES IN CONCERN FOR THE REJECT'S FATE...

STOP THE COMBAT! THE BOY WILL BE SLAUGHTERED BY THAT THING!

HAHAHAH!! IGNORE HER! BEGIN THE BATTLE!

FOOLS! FOOLS! YOU'LL DESTROY THE ONE OBJECT OF VALUE IN THIS UGLY DOMAIN!!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, THENA! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW CANNOT BE STOPPED!

WRONG, KRO!! IT CAN BE STOPPED!!!

BUT IT WILL TAKE A TITANIC SPACE GOD TO HALT...

THE KILLING MACHINE

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Jack,

Your new comic, ETERNALS, is great, as issue #4 clearly proves. But I have one question: While the Deviants were attacking New York, where were the rest of the local super-heroes?

Mike Larson
8830 White Oak Ave.
Northridge, CA 91325

Where were they, Mike? Well, the Fantastic Four were in transit from Counter-Earth, the Avengers were in New Orleans, the Defenders were somewhere outside of Norman, Oklahoma, and Spider-Man was visiting his aunt in Queens. In other words, everybody was out of town!

Dear Marvel,

Like many other Jack Kirby fans, I waited in anticipation of the King's return to Marvel. Now, after having read his CAPTAIN AMERICA and ETERNALS efforts, I'd like to discuss two areas of concern.

First, I'd like to comment on an artist's control over the production of comics. In the past, both Steranko and Starlin have produced comics that they wrote as well as drew. But unlike Jack, they did not have editorial control over their comics. My question is: "Does one person's complete control over a comic produce a better comic?" In the undergrounds there are artist/writers like Rich Corben who have created beautiful comics. But similar efforts by aboveground artists and writers have been disappointing to me. Jack Kirby is the first artist at Marvel that I am aware of who has nearly complete control over his comics. I believe that Jack has sacrificed valuable input and feedback in gaining his editorial freedom. I feel that Jack the writer and Jack the artist lose something by working together at the exclusion of another creative "sounding board." I believe this in spite of my respect for his Fourth World series. But then, many of the ideas for that series had been developed over the years when Jack had still been at Marvel (as deduced from many interviews and articles concerning Mr. Kirby). I know that many fans will disagree with me, but once the honeymoon period is over, I think that more readers will notice that the quality of Jack's recent work has been below par—for Jack. I would like to see either a stronger outside editorial influence or a writer who could work with Jack's plots.

Secondly, the times have changed. Although Jack is deservedly called the King, it wasn't until the sixties that his bold and dynamic style really emerged. His earlier work was good, but not as stunningly great. In the sixties and early seventies Jack used large, bold panels in comics that were blessed with twenty to twenty-four pages. Economic pressures have brought about a reduction in pages. Writers have compensated by putting more story in each page, and artists have used imaginative layouts and more panels per page. I feel that Jack has not adjusted to these limitations. His writing is paced for pages that no longer exist, making his stories appear skimpy. Jack the artist also has a style that works best with larger panels. His explosive style loses something in small panels. When given more pages to work with—as in the larger comics formats—Jack has produced his best work at Marvel since his return. Although I don't think that Jack should change his present layout, I do feel that Jack the writer needs to pace his stories to give the reader more substance in the script. As I stated earlier, a co-scripter might be the answer if egos don't get in the way.

I hope this will all be taken as constructive criticism, since I admire Jack's work a great deal. I also admire him for something that is easily overlooked by most fans: Jack meets his deadlines! And considering the number of pages of art that he keeps turning out, that really gains my respect.

Vallard Eding
636 Kodiak Court #3
Sonnyvale, CA 94087

Val, never let it be said that Mighty Marvel has steered away from controversy—especially on letters pages! That's why we're presenting your letter nearly *in toto* for the perusal of Marveldom Assembled. And we've got a hunch that this will trigger a bigger batch of pro and con mail than these halls have seen in many a day.

And by the by, Mr. E, we appreciate the constructive tone of your criticisms immensely. Thanks for caring to comment.

Dear Jack,

You have always been my favorite comic storyteller, and I think that ETERNALS is one of your best books yet. The gods theme in comics has always fascinated me, and in ETERNALS it has reached its zenith. The concepts have always been fantastic, and your art is truly the fitting complement. Keep up the great work!

Lawrence McHugh
3117 Meadow Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Marvel-people,

Could you tell me how to subscribe to ETERNALS? Also, would it be possible to purchase the first issue?

Dwight Parker
4119 Fernhill Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215

Yes and no, Dwight! Subscribing is simple! Just see our handy subscription ad elsewhere in this magazine. And while we'd really like to help you out on completing your ETERNALS collection, we're afraid we have to report that we just aren't set up to handle back issues. Sorry!

Dear Marvel,

ETERNALS may be breathtaking, it may be fantastic and senses-shattering! But most of all, it is awesome might of Jack Kirby unleashed!

Kirby's writing affects you like the force of an exploding brain-mine! His artwork is as staggering as the sight of Arishem himself! And the concept...well, it offers never-ending possibilities.

Getting down the present issue, I'm glad to see that Jack is concentrating on all of his characters, and not just on Ikaris. I wish that you would feature Sersi, Kro, and Ajak in the months to come, before putting Ikaris back in the limelight. I eagerly look forward to next issue's introduction of Olympia, and the expansion of characters that will be accompanying it.

One more thing, Jack! Some of the best news I've heard this month is that you're going to take over the BLACK PANTHER. Thank goodness! The King of the Wakandas will really start to boom now!

Bob Minalga Jr.
10 Parker Ave.
Westfield, MD 01085

scanned by *Wizard*